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Recovery Operations Resume at Montgomery

PITTSBURGH – The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the towing industry resumed recovery operations at Montgomery Locks and Dam today. The towboat M/V Elizabeth M. and four of its six barges remain sunk on the dam along with another barge, sunk below the dam at Mile 33.6, awaiting recovery. The barge that sank at Mile 32.2, closest to the downstream approach to the Montgomery Locks, was removed January 21. Recovery operations for these vessels, beginning with the M/V Elizabeth M., are expected to continue for the next several weeks, river conditions permitting. A slight rise in the river level is expected over the next several days which may cause recovery operations to be suspended.

Only one other barge from breakaways during high water earlier this month remains to be recovered upstream of the dam at Pike Island Locks and Dam. This barge is not currently impacting navigation or lock and dam operation.